



**Northeast  
Utilities System**

Northeast Utilities Service Company  
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October 28, 2004

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station, Second Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**RE: Western Massachusetts Electric Company Semi-Annual Double Pole Report,  
D.T.E. 03-87**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

In its November 28, 2003 report relative to a plan to eliminate the backlog of double utility poles within the Commonwealth, pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2003, Section 110 ("Report"), the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") required pole owners to submit detailed plans for eliminating the backlog of double poles as soon as reasonably practicable. Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") filed its plan for eliminating the backlog of double poles on January 27, 2004. As follow up to that report, WMECO now submits its Semi-Annual Double Pole Report. Enclosed for filing are the original and nine copies of this status report.

In the filing submitted on January 27, 2004, WMECO identified the following actions that had been undertaken to eliminate the backlog of double poles within WMECO's service territory:

1. Remove the poles that were ready to remove, by April 15, 2004.
2. Transfer WMECO's facilities on all poles that required transfer as of January 27, 2004 by June 1, 2004.
3. Complete a re-survey of the municipalities in its service territory by June 1, 2004.
4. Complete full implementation of the PLM System in its district offices, discuss double pole status in monthly operational meetings, and provide needed training by March 1, 2004.
5. Conduct monthly meetings with Verizon to discuss all joint pole work in the WMECO Service Territory including double poles.
6. Meet with Third Party Attachees as necessary.
7. Continued participation on the Collaborative Team of Massachusetts Utilities to improve the functionality of the PLM System.

During the past several months, WMECO has completed the steps outlined in its January 27<sup>th</sup> filing. The poles identified as being ready to remove have all been removed. Identified transfers

were completed, and the re-survey of towns was also completed. One of the outcomes of the re-survey effort was that additional poles not previously in the PLM System were identified and added to PLM pole database. In addition, WMECO has undertaken two large distribution construction projects where 94 double poles were created. These poles will become normal poles when the projects are completed. Discussions with WMECO personnel and joint meetings with Verizon are held on a monthly basis. During the period between January 27<sup>th</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>, there were 927 poles entered in the PLM System and a total of 535 poles were removed. This pole activity represents pole sets and removals by both WMECO and Verizon MA. There have been discussions with Third Party Attachees regarding pole transfers. WMECO continues to work collaboratively with the other utilities and a users' group meeting between the utilities and InQuest Technologies is scheduled in November.

The present status of double poles in WMECO's service territory is listed below.

**Double Pole Status as of October 22, 2004**

<u>WMECO</u> <u>to Shift</u>	<u>Others</u> <u>to Shift</u>	<u>Verizon MA</u> <u>to Shift</u>	<u>Ready to Remove-</u> <u>Verizon MA</u>	<u>Ready to Remove-</u> <u>WMECO</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Double Poles</u>
56	55	770	59	245	1185

The PLM System is proving to be an effective tool in managing double pole activity. WMECO is committed to work toward the elimination of the double pole backlog in the towns that it serves.

Please contact me or John Tulloch at telephone (413)787-9018, or email: [tullojs@nu.com](mailto:tullojs@nu.com), should you have any questions in regard to this filing.

Very truly yours,

Donald M. Bishop  
Manager, Regulatory Policy - Massachusetts